

Applicants: Tilla S. Worgall, et al.
Serial No.: Not Yet Known
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Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims by replacing all prior versions and listings of the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original) A method for decreasing the amount of mSREBP in a cell characterized by an elevated level of mSREBP comprising contacting the cell with an agent that specifically inhibits *de novo* synthesis of ceramide in the cell, thereby decreasing the amount of mSREBP in the cell.

Claims 2-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~2, 3 or 4~~, wherein the cell is a human cell.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~2, 3 or 4~~, wherein the cell is a hepatocyte.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~2, 3 or 4~~, wherein the cell is an adipocyte.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~2, 3 or 4~~, wherein the agent specifically inhibits the activity of an enzyme which catalyzes part of the *de novo* ceramide pathway.

Claim 9 (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the enzyme is serine-palmitoyl transferase or ceramide synthase.

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Claim 10 (currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~2, 3 or 4~~, wherein the agent inhibits the expression of an enzyme which catalyzes part of the *de novo* ceramide pathway.

Claim 11 (original) The method of claim 10, wherein the enzyme is serine-palmitoyl transferase or ceramide synthase.

Claim 12 (currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~2, 3 or 4~~, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of (a) myriocin; (b) cycloserine; (c) Fumonisin B1; (d) PPMP; (e) compound D609; (f) methylthiodihydroceramide; (g) propanolol; and (h) resvaratrol.

Claim 13 (original) A method for increasing the amount of mSREBP in a cell comprising contacting the cell with an agent that specifically increases *de novo* synthesis of ceramide in the cell, thereby increasing the amount of mSREBP in the cell.

Claim 14 (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the cell is a human cell.

Claim 15 (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the cell is a hepatocyte.

Claim 16 (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the cell is an adipocyte.

Claims 17-43 (canceled)